

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A Mmethod for the production of a N-terminal four kringle-containing fragment of hepatocyte growth factor (NK4) comprising:
 - (a) expressing ~~on~~ of a nucleic acid encoding said NK4 in a microbial host cell,
 - (b) isolating ~~of~~ inclusion bodies containing ~~of~~ said NK4 in denatured form,
 - (c) solubilizing ~~ation~~ of the inclusion bodies at a pH of 7-9 in a phosphate buffered solution, and
 - (d) renaturating ~~ation~~ of the denatured NK4, characterized in that ~~solubilization and~~ ~~naturalization are performed at a pH of 7-9 in a~~ phosphate buffered solution.
2. (Currently amended) A Mmethod according to claim 1, wherein, after renaturating ~~on~~, the NK4 is dialyzed with phosphate buffer at pH 7-9 for at least 24 hours.
3. (Currently amended) A Mmethod according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized wherein the ~~at~~ NK4 is purified after renaturation by hydrophobic interaction chromatography in the presence of a phosphate buffer at pH 7-9.
4. (Currently amended) A Mmethod according to claim 3, characterized wherein the ~~at~~ chromatography is performed on butyl sepharose[-] or phenyl sepharose.

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5. (Currently amended) A Mmethod according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 4,
~~characterized wherein that~~ the amount of GSH-modified NK4 is between 0% and 50%
of the total amount of NK4.

6. (Currently amended) A Mmethod according to claim 5, ~~characterized wherein~~
~~that~~ the amount of GSH- modified NK4 is between 0% and 20% of the total amount of
NK4.